

TEMPE ADULT SOFTBALL
TEMPE PARKS & RECREATION
OUR MISSION IS TO BE THE BEST PART OF YOUR DAY
YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR FUN

WHAT'S NEW FOR SUMMER '05

DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS FOR MEN

You've asked for it! You've asked for years! They're here - double elimination season ending tournaments for the men's leagues. Yes - the comet with the tail of genius finally swooshed by Tempe Parks & Recreation. The enlightenment was truly cosmic.

Previous thinking always focused on the extra cost. The double elimination format would mean an additional eight games per league tournament. Umpires, lights, softballs and site supervisors would cost an additional \$50 per team. The larger hurdle has been the total cost of around \$14,000 which was never in the City's budget. A second concern was adding a ninth week to the season in an already crowded three season year.

Post comet/cosmic thinking had us reworking the season to accommodate the DE tournament. The goal was to be budget neutral or to trade artichokes for artichokes. The new league format will go from seven weeks and fourteen games to six weeks, twelve league games and a two week tournament.

Yes - you are right. Teams will no longer play every team in the league - the schedule will fail to be a true round robin. However, before the sports purist rise in anger, remember,

the sports world is replete with examples of unbalanced schedules. On the positive side, each team will have an opportunity to play a team they haven't seen before - fresh faces, the unknown. All tournaments will be seeded after the last week of the season.

In the new tournament format, the term double elimination is not exactly true to the definition. A true DE tournament would have 14 games with a possible 15th or "If Game" if the team coming through the losers bracket defeats the team advancing from the winners bracket. This would leave two teams with only one loss and call for the 15th and final game.

In our situation, we will have time to play only 14 games - 8 in the first week and 6 in the tournaments second week. When the loser bracket and winner bracket teams play at 9:30 PM, it will be the 14th and championship game.

The leagues will try the new format for the summer. As always the teams will have the opportunity to evaluate and if appropriate throw the plan under the bus. There is always another season and another plan.

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